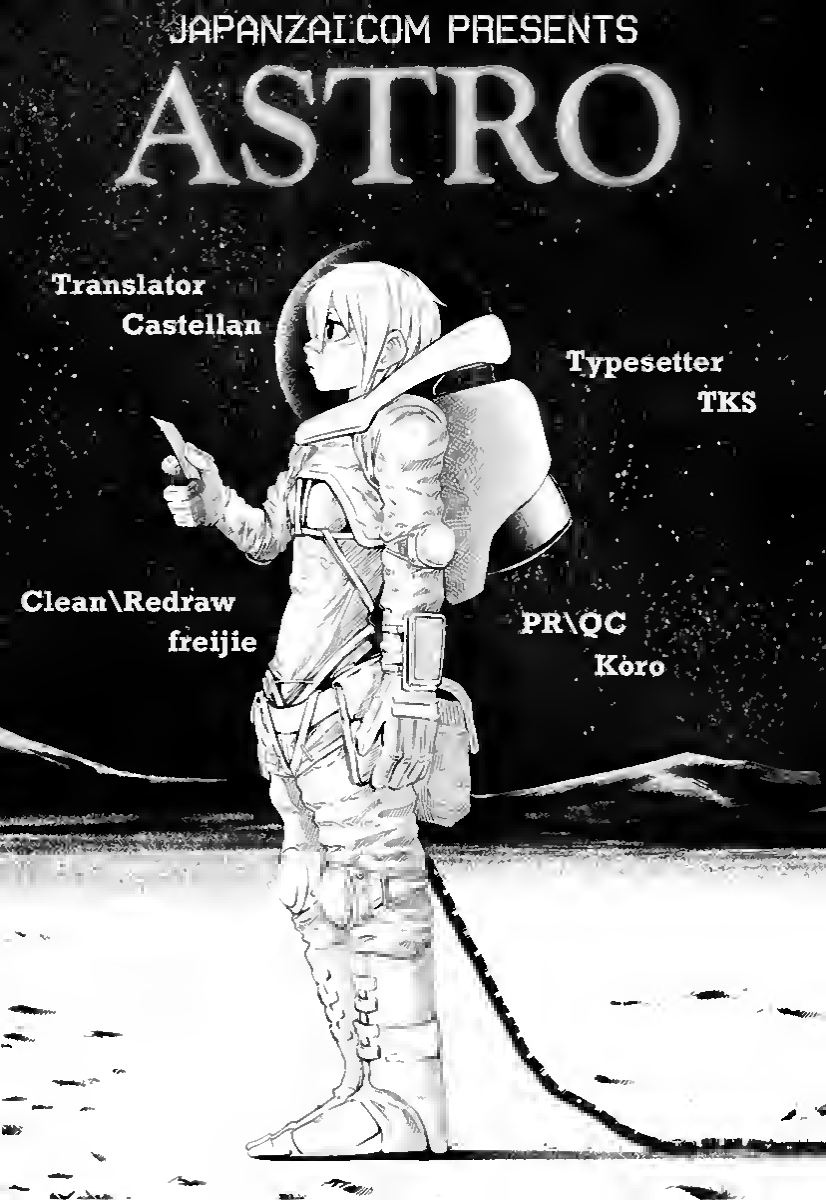
JAPANZAI.COM PRESENTS

ASTRO

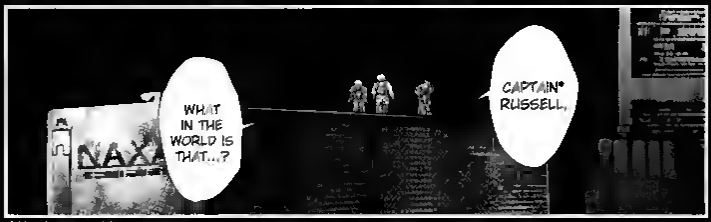


Grand Prize Winner Of The 7th MF Comics Happy Award

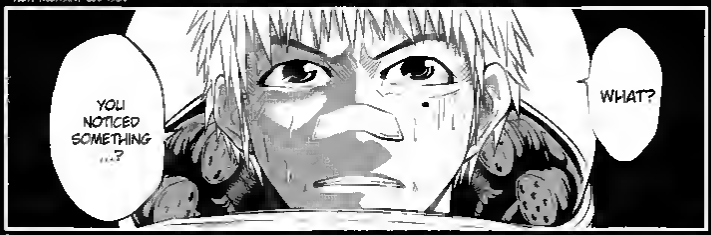
ASTRO

アストロ

SHINNOSUKE KUJI



*NON-MILITARY CAPTAIN



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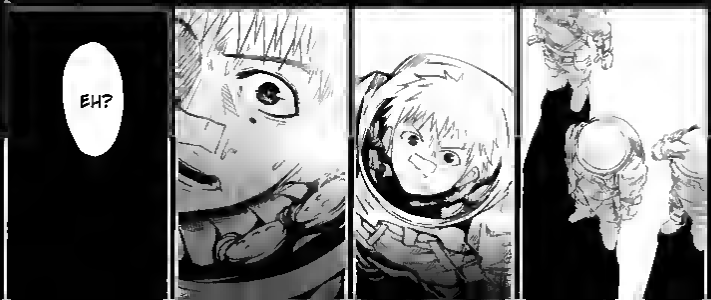
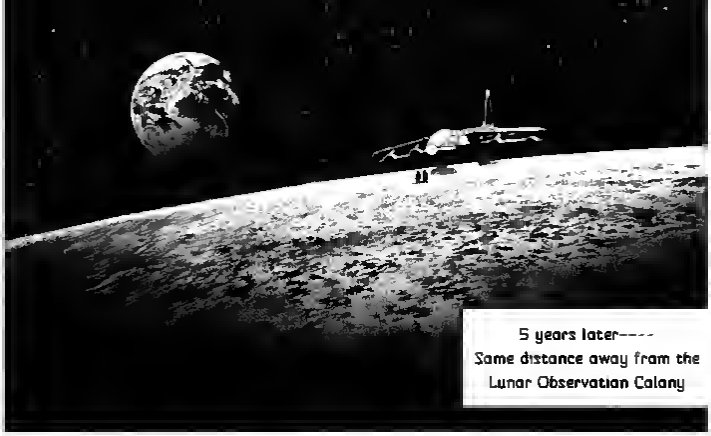


That year, a large swarm of meteorites impacted on the Moon

Three astronauts working on colony construction were lost



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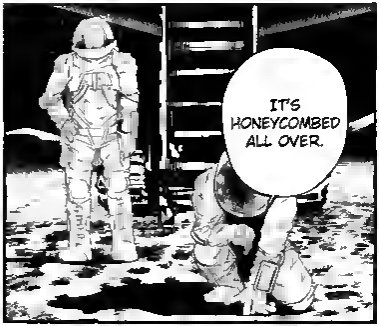
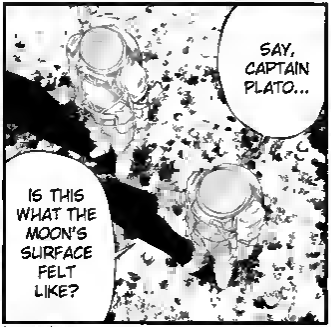
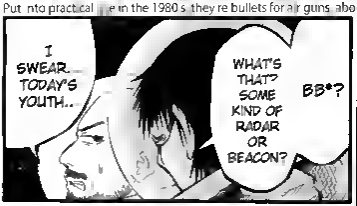
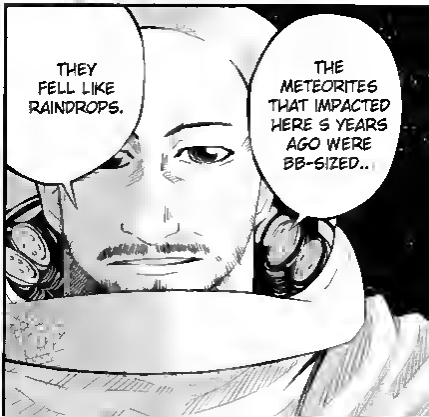


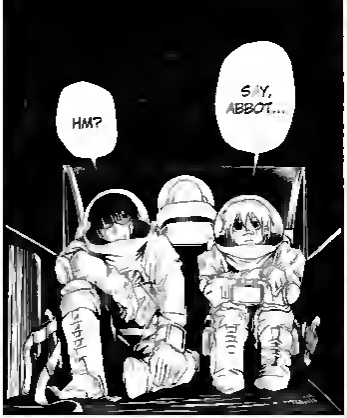


Put into practical use in the 1980's, they're bullets for air guns, about 6.8mm in diameter.

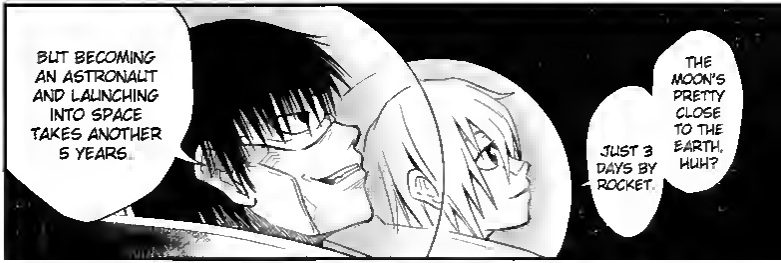




HEY,
COME ON DOWN,
THESE WEREN'T BULLETS
TYCHO.
OKAY,
ABBOT.


HM?
SAY, ABBOT...

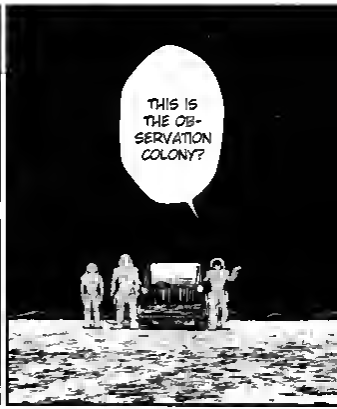
Kchh


THE MOON'S PRETTY CLOSE TO THE EARTH, HUH?
JUST 3 DAYS BY ROCKET.
BUT BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT AND LAUNCHING INTO SPACE TAKES ANOTHER 5 YEARS.

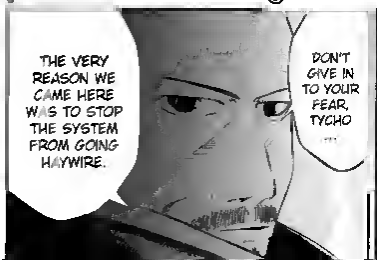
FATHER?
STILL, I'M GLAD I CAME..
ARE YOU GLAD THAT I CAME,

YEAH...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR FATHER, CAPTAIN RUSSELL, THAT I SET MY SIGHTS ON SPACE.
FOR ME...
IT'S THANKS TO HIM THAT I'M HERE... SO I'M GRATEFUL.
にゅ… slide…
WELL, IT'S...
BLOOT
?
AS IF IT'S DESTINY FOR US TO BE HERE TOGETHER...
7
HUH?
THE GRAVITY HERE IS ONE SIXTH OF EARTH'S; YOU AREN'T HURT.
OW! YOU BAS-TARD!
THAT'S NOT THE PROB-LEM!
WE'VE ARRIVED.
crunch

AFTER THE IMPACT OF THE METEOR SHOWER 5 YEARS AGO, THE SOLAR SYSTEM FAILED AND WENT HAYWIRE.


THIS IS THE OBSERVATION COLONY?

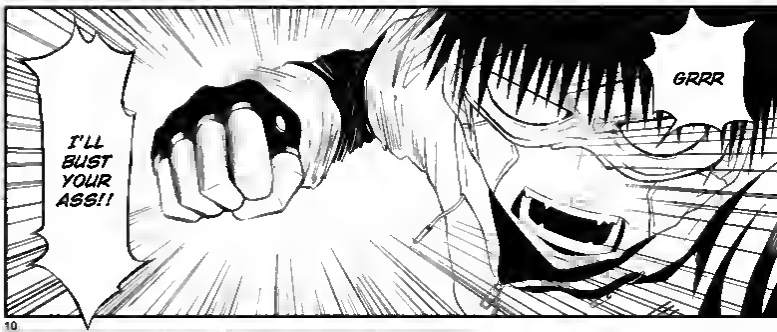
CRACKLE
POP
SNAP
WITH NO ATMOSPHERE ON THE MOON, ELECTRICITY HAS BEEN RELEASED
WITH NO PLACE TO GO, THE ELECTRICITY GROWS MORE AND MORE POWERFUL

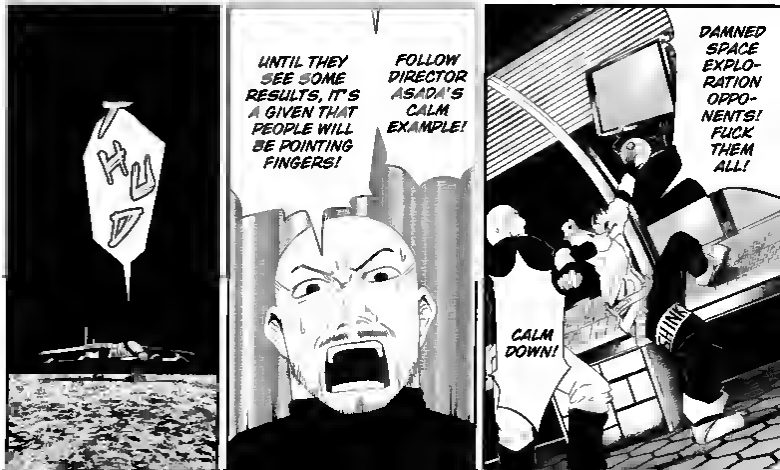

THE VERY REASON WE CAME HERE WAS TO STOP THE SYSTEM FROM GOING HAYWIRE.
DON'T GIVE IN TO YOUR FEAR, TYCHO ...

THE MOON IS THE PERFECT ENVIRONMENT FOR THIS ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE PHENOMENON TO OCCUR.

BEEP
CHANNEL99
NEWS☆LIVE
Director Asada
So what you're saying is that unless the electrical discharge is somehow fixed, you can't begin colony repair work?
Earth---
Space Aeronautics Exploration Research Institute (NAXA)
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE 3 ASTRONAUTS IN THE SPACE PROGRAM THAT WERE LOST 5 YEARS AGO?
WE'LL DEFINITELY CALM DOWN THE RUNAWAY SYSTEM.
CORRECT... RIGHT NOW, 3 ASTRONAUTS ARE TRYING TO DISCONNECT THE RUNAWAY SYSTEM.

Please answer, Director Asada!
IS THERE ANY POINT TO SPACE EXPLORATION AT SUCH A RISK?!
DO THE WORDS "RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE" MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?!
NASA
DON'T TRY TO AVOID THE QUES-TION!


I'LL BUST YOUR ASS!!
GRRR


THUD
UNTIL THEY SEE SOME RESULTS, IT'S A GIVEN THAT PEOPLE WILL BE POINTING FINGERS!
FOLLOW DIRECTOR ASADA'S CALM EXAMPLE!
DAMNED SPACE EXPLO-RATION OPPO-NENTS! FUCK THEM ALL!
CLINK
CALM DOWN!

AND WHAT'LL WE DO ABOUT TOMORROW'S ASSAULT, CAPTAIN PLATO?
SO WHEN'S OUR HERMIT-GIRL GOING TO COME OUT OF THE ROOM?
NOW THEN... REGARDING THE CURRENT PLAN, DIRECTOR ASADA'S EXPLANATION WAS...
CRYPTIC
BEATEN UP
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THE GRAVITY HAS ANY EFFECT ON THE STRENGTH IN YOUR FISTS...
SOB...
IT'S A SHOCK TO SEE THAT IT'S SUCH A DISASTROUS SCENE, YOU KNOW?
TO TYCHO, IT'S AS IF THAT COLONY WAS HER FATHER'S GRAVE...
JUST LEAVE HER ALONE FOR A WHILE...

5 years earlier---
Space-Rocket Launch Center

SORRY, WAIT A MOMENT.

LOOK THIS WAY, PLEASE.
LET'S TAKE A PHOTO TO COMMEMORATE THE LAUNCH

C'MERE
TYCHO

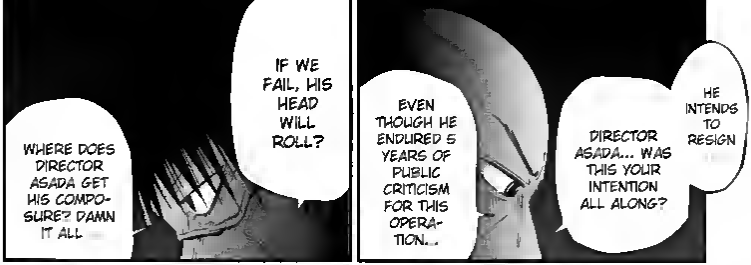
UHM ...
AS ORDERED BY THE SECRETARY, IT'S JUST SUPPOSED TO BE THE ASTRONAUTS AND THE DIRECTOR...
ER ...
HEY, DIRECTOR ASADAAA...
I DON'T MIND.
COME ON OVER HERE, MISS TYCHO.

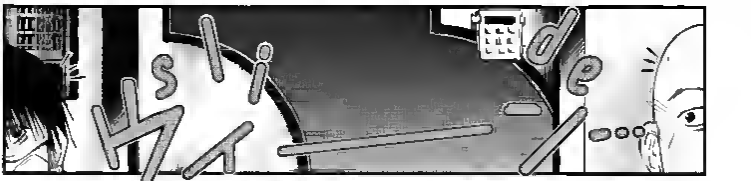
OKAY, CHEESE!
ALRIGHT, LET'S DO THIS.

パシャ
CLICK

PLEASE ANSWER, DIRECTOR ASADA!
IF THERE ARE MORE DEATHS, HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY?
PLEASE TELL US, JUST WHAT IS THE POINT OF SUCH A DANGEROUS SPACE PROGRAM!?
CLICK

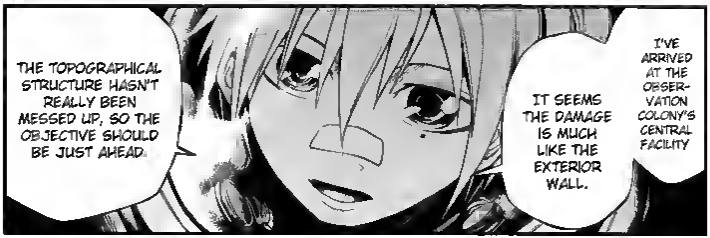
DO YOU INTEND TO TAKE OUTER SPACE AWAY FROM ASTRO-NAUTS?
?
IT ISN'T FOR A CONCEIVED "REASON" THAT WE AIM FOR OUTER SPACE.
THE DESIRE IS FAR MORE BASIC THAN THAT
I AM HERE PURELY FOR THE SAKE OF SPACE EXPLORA-TION.
IF THIS OPERATION FAILS, IT'S A GIVEN THAT I WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY.
twitch!
!?


HE INTENDS TO RESIGN
DIRECTOR ASADA... WAS THIS YOUR INTENTION ALL ALONG?
EVEN THOUGH HE ENDURED 5 YEARS OF PUBLIC CRITICISM FOR THIS OPERATION...
IF WE FAIL, HIS HEAD WILL ROLL?
WHERE DOES DIRECTOR ASADA GET HIS COMPOSURE? DAMN IT ALL


Hside

Don't accidentally unplug the communications cable.
Given this discharge phenomenon, the condition of radio waves on the lunar surface is the worst possible. As such we'll communicate via wired links.
Tycho, can you hear me?
This is Plato.
IF YOU IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM'S POWER SOURCE, TRANSMIT THE COORDINATE DATA.
YOU'RE THE MOST WELL-VERSED ON THE TOPOGRAPHICAL LAYOUT OF THE OBSERVATION COLONY.
Under no circumstances are you to touch charged debris.
your spacesuit is designed with mobility as a priority, so its protective capacity is weak.
TO SETTLE THE ELECTRIC DISCHARGE PHENOMENON, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DISCONNECT THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
LET'S GO OVER IT ONE LAST TIME.

NOT REALLY. I UNDERSTAND.
TYCHO, DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
YOU'LL BE THE RECON UNIT, ABBOT WILL BE THE EXECUTION UNIT, AND I'LL BE THE REAR SUPPORT UNIT.
After all, cutting and breaking things is his specialty.
In order to cut the power, Abbot is equipped with a heavier suit designed to withstand a greater charge.

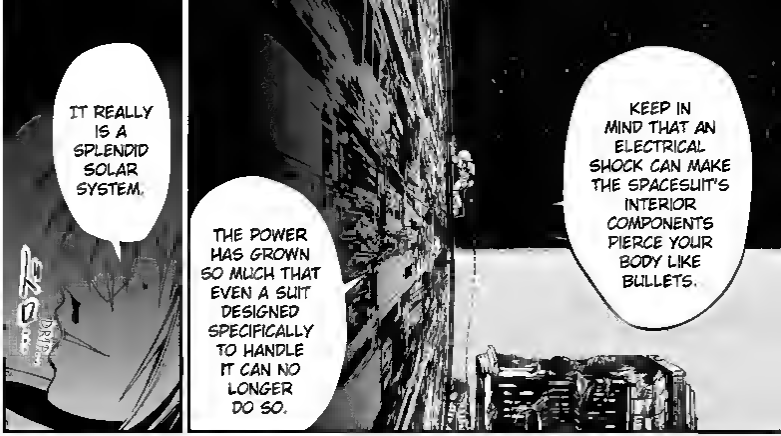

I'VE ARRIVED AT THE OBSERVATION COLONY'S CENTRAL FACILITY
IT SEEMS THE DAMAGE IS MUCH LIKE THE EXTERIOR WALL.
THE TOPOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE HASN'T REALLY BEEN MESSED UP, SO THE OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE JUST AHEAD.

ズッ
ア
ゴ

THEY REALLY

PUT THE OBSERVATION COLONY TOGETHER WELL.

pop
pop
pop
pop
pop
pop
pop
!?
AH-
I'm fine...
I...
!
WHAT'S WRONG, TYCHO!? RESPOND!
DID IT SHOCK YOU? IF IT DID, SEND THE DATA ON THE ELECTRICAL POWER TOO.
Se... Sending... coordinate data
I've... I've located the Solar System's power source...
BEEP
IS THERE DAMAGE TO THE SPACE-SUIT?
Is your body okay?
BEEP


KEEP IN MIND THAT AN ELECTRICAL SHOCK CAN MAKE THE SPACESUIT'S INTERIOR COMPONENTS PIERCE YOUR BODY LIKE BULLETS.
THE POWER HAS GROWN SO MUCH THAT EVEN A SUIT DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO HANDLE IT CAN NO LONGER DO SO.
IT REALLY IS A SPLENDID SOLAR SYSTEM.

I've received the coordinates and the electrical data...
Huh ?
!?
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THIS ELECTRICAL POWER ?!
YOU'RE TAKING TOO GREAT A RISK!

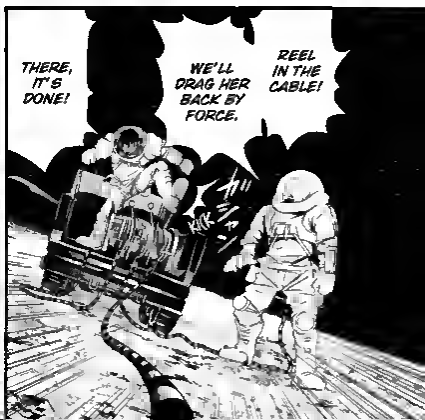
IT'S LIKE DIVING INTO FIRE NAKED!
TYCHO, COME BACK! WE'LL ABORT THE OPERATION!
TYCHO, RESPOND!
HE ORDERED YOU BACK HERE
!?
.....

It's been 5 years
The world considered us idiots
Could you bear it...?
?
Could you bear to just return?
If we quit now, could you bear it?
Day after day embarrassment after embarrassment to the point of madness, we've continued to endure it...
No, all astronauts will become a laughing stock. Could you bear that...?
We'll put an end to this.
If this goes on, my father...
TYCHO,
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
COME BACK!
21
ダラリ...
drip
drip...

EVEN IF IT KILLS ME, I'LL STOP IT FROM RUNNING WILD!

DID SUFFERING AN ELECTRIC SHOCK DRIVING YOU CRAZY?!
DAMN!

wind
wind
wind
wind


THERE, IT'S DONE!
WE'LL DRAG HER BACK BY FORCE.
REEL IN THE CABLE!
KIR-R-R-

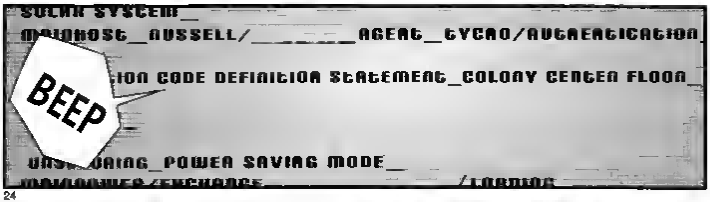
TYCHO ...

SHE DE-TACHED THE CABLE!
THAT IDIOT !!
COUGH
!?
GLE
AM
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
FATHER...
Dark
Dark
23

CLICK

ポッ
P
O
P

Wired link from astronaut approved
WHOOSH

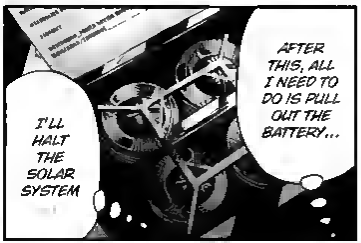

SOLAR SYSTEM
MAINHOST_RUSSELL/
AGENT_SYCAO/AUTHENTICATION
ION CODE DEFINITION STATEMENT_COLONY CENTER FLOOR
BEEP
UNSCHEDULING_POWER SAVING MODE
/CARRIER

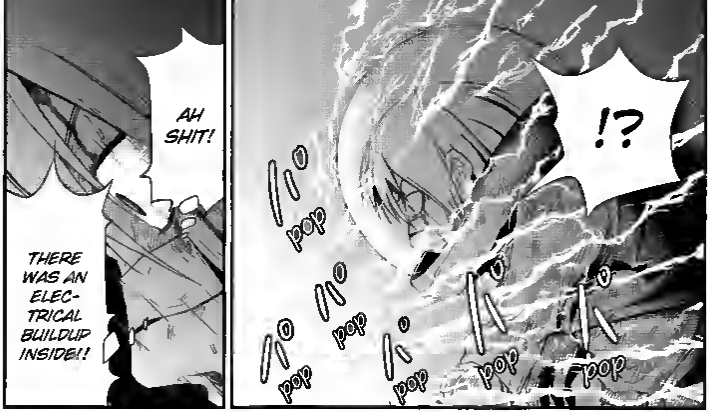
24

BZZ

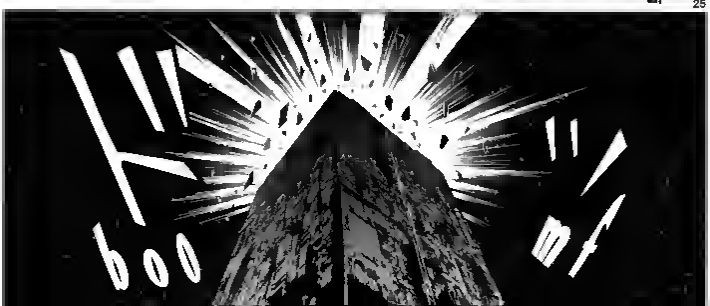
reach

Order entry confirmed

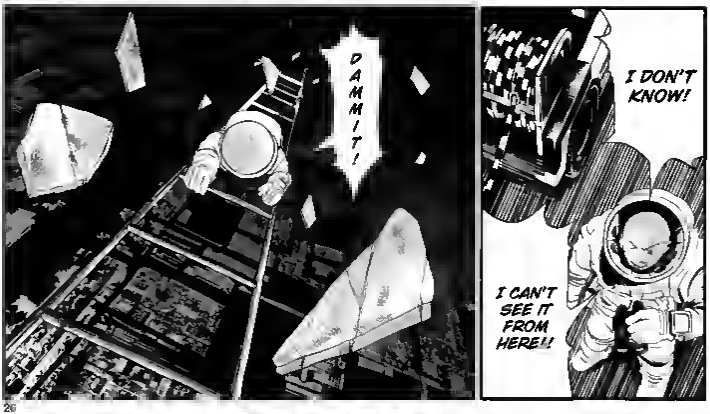

I'LL HALT THE SOLAR SYSTEM
AFTER THIS, ALL I NEED TO DO IS PULL OUT THE BATTERY...


AH SHIT!
THERE WAS AN ELEC-TRICAL BUILDUP INSIDE!!
!?
pop
pop
pop
pop
pop
pop
pop

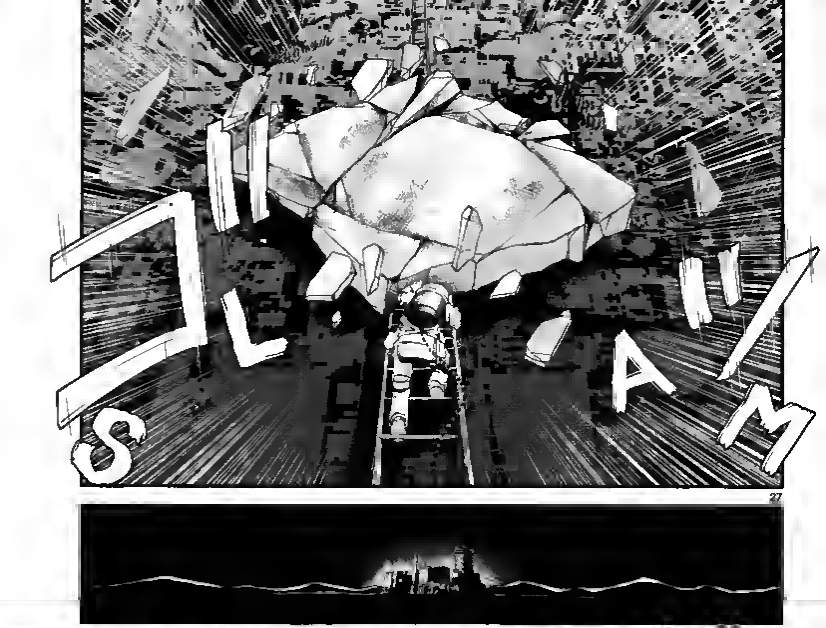
WHOOSH

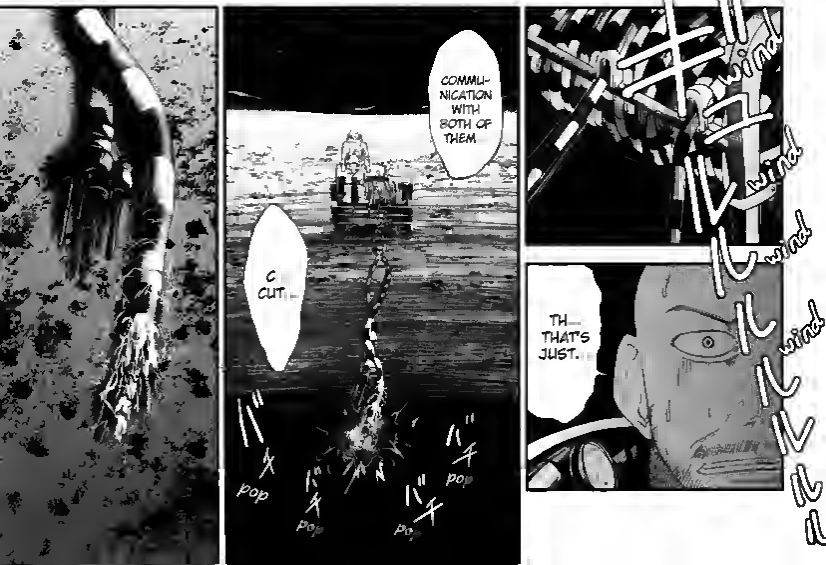


CAPTAIN PLATO!
WHAT HAP-PENED UP THERE?!
HEEEY! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

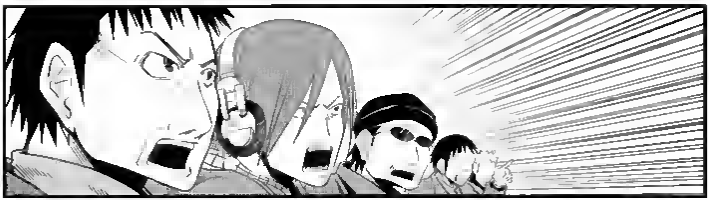

DAMMIT!
I DON'T KNOW!
I CAN'T SEE IT FROM HERE!!

HUH?

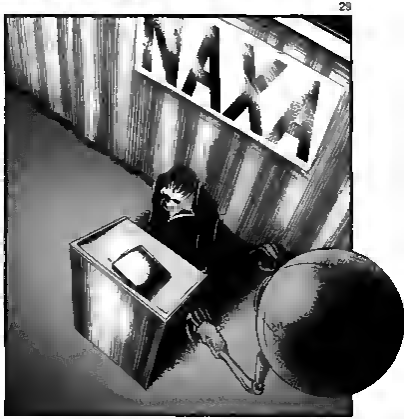

SLASH


COMMUNICATION WITH BOTH OF THEM...
C CUT...
pop
pop
pop
pop
wind
wind
wind
wind
TH... THAT'S JUST...

NAXA

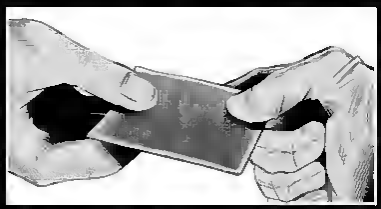


THEY'LL DEFINITELY
COME BACK.


NAXA

Earth —
Space-Rocket Launch Center

TYCHO.
TAKE THIS WITH YOU.



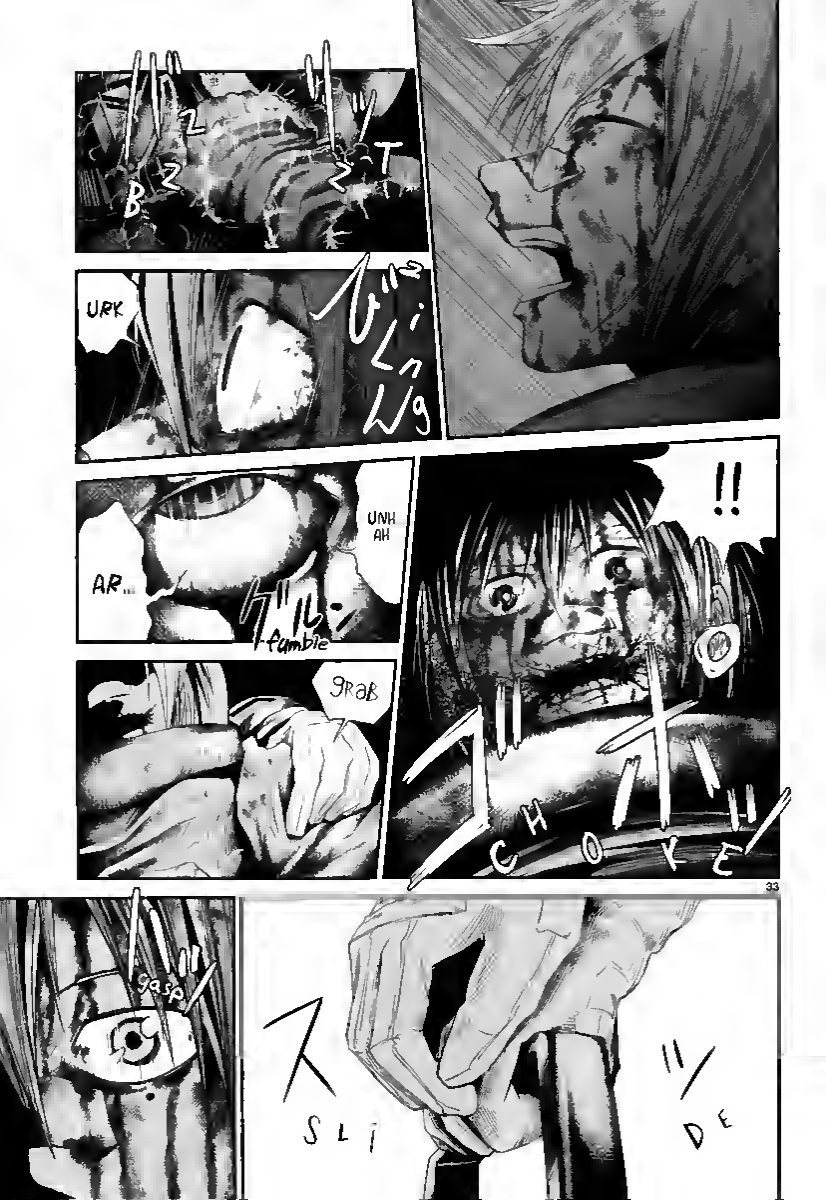
I'LL LEND THIS TO YOU...
BE SURE TO BRING IT BACK.

YOU LOOK CUTE WHEN YOU SMILE.
DIRECTOR ASADA...

HEY, YOU ASTRO-NAUTS!!
hehehe...
EH? WHAT? SERI-OUSLY?
THE DIREC-TOR'S SMIL-ING...
LET'S BE SURE
TO MEET AGAIN!
OH ...

HE SMILED.

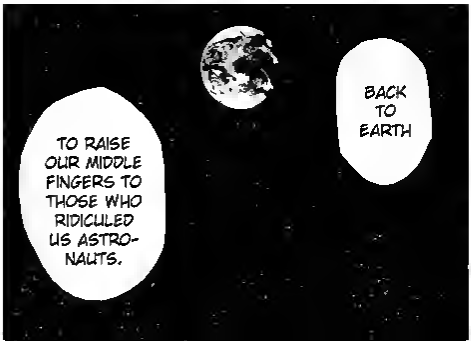
pop
pop
pop


BZZZT
URK
UNH AH
AR...
fumble
grab
!!
CHOKE
grab
SLIDE

K
SS
SS
H

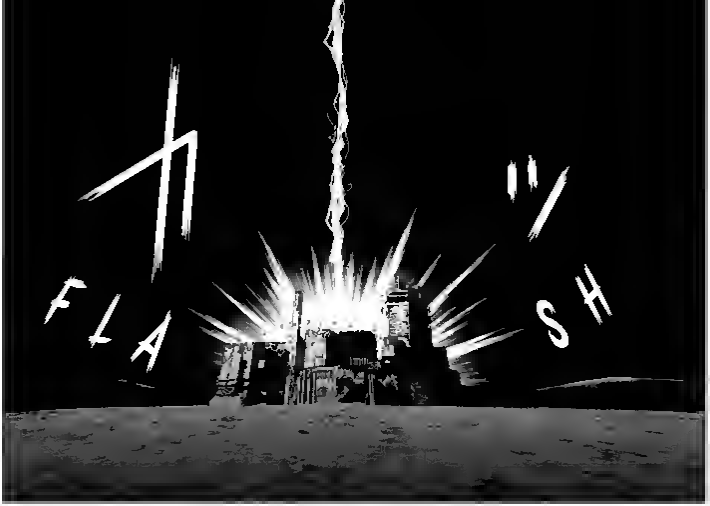
ABB .
OT?
A..

CAN YOU HEAR ME TYCHO?
WIRED COM-LINK ATTACHED.


TO RAISE OUR MIDDLE FINGERS TO THOSE WHO RIDICULED US ASTRO-NAUTS.
BACK TO EARTH

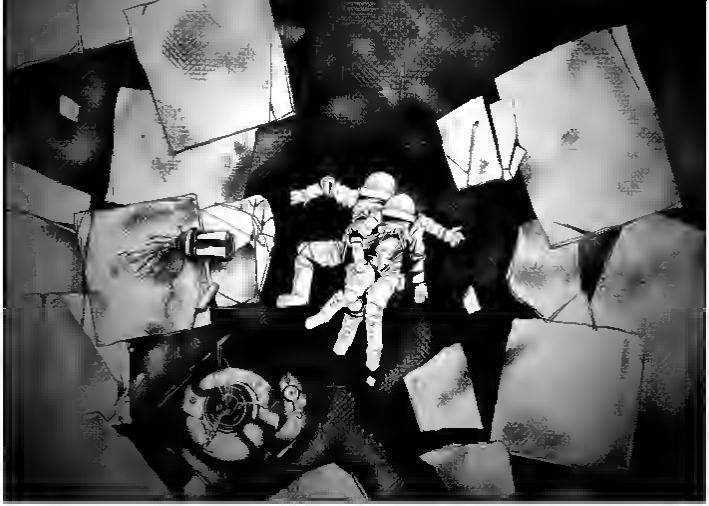
LET'S PUT AN END TO THIS AND GO HOME!

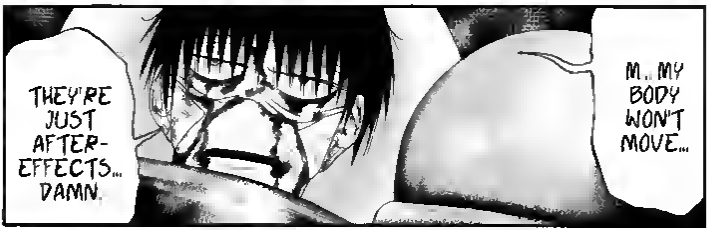
TYCHO. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE PISSED AT THOSE GUYS, YOU KNOW?
WE'LL TEACH THEM NOT TO LOOK DOWN ON ASTRO-NAUTS!
WE HAVE A REASON TO MAKE IT BACK TO EARTH!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, TYCHO!?
YUP.
LET'S GO.
35


FLASH

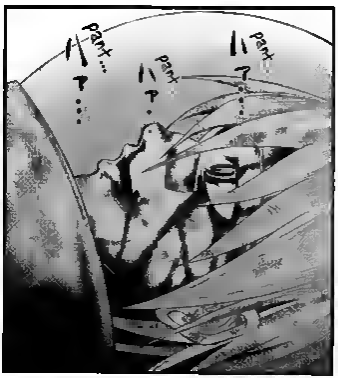
!

WE STOPPED IT...
FROM RUNNING WILD...?!




M..MY BODY WON'T MOVE...
THEY'RE JUST AFTER-EFFECTS... DAMN.

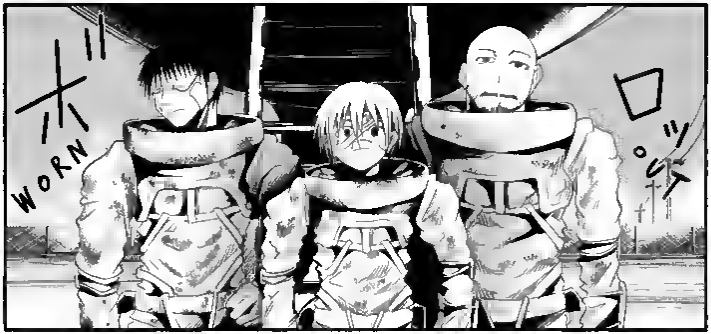
IT'S NOT OVER YET, IS IT?
?

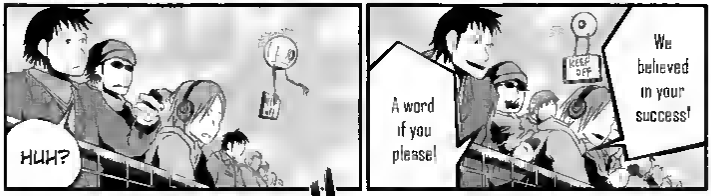

pant...
pant...
pant...
pant...

NOW BEGINS THE COLONY RESTORA-TION
WE'LL DEFINITELY FINISH IT OFF WITH OUR OWN HANDS.

YEAH...
THE DAY IT'LL ONCE AGAIN BE THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND A COLONY IS CLOSE AT HAND ISN'T IT?
YOUR FATHER'S SOLAR SYSTEM
39
FATHER...

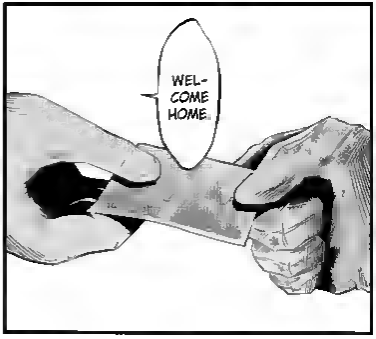
Having succeeded in disconnecting the Solar System the astronauts returned safely
Japan—

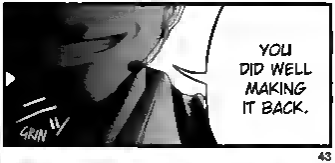

WORN

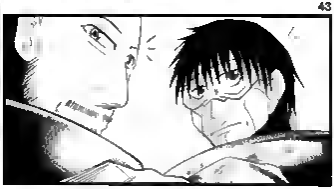

HUH?
A word if you please!
KEEP OFF
We believed in your success!

ABBOT! CUT IT OUT!!
gyaaa
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THAT "WE BELIEVED IN YOU" BULLSHIT!!?
gyaaaa

REACH


WEL-COME HOME.


YOU DID WELL MAKING IT BACK.
GRIN



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STAY TUNED FOR SHINNOSUKE KUJI'S NEXT WORK!

I'M HOME.

MONTHLY COMIC FLAPPER — END